

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for identification and counting multiple articles in a confined mass,
a source of RF energy attached to each of said articles within said mass,
5 an antenna for receiving signals from said sources of RF energy,
means for selectively positioning said antenna around said mass articles for receiving multiple RF signals therefrom.

2. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 1 wherein said source of RF energy attached to
10 each of said articles comprises an RF transmitter.

3. An apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 1 wherein said articles comprise, garments such as uniforms.

4. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a
15 confined mass set forth in claim 1 wherein said means for selectively positioning said antenna around said massed article comprises,
a movable antenna support table with a movable frame support housing.

5. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 4 wherein said antenna support table is pivotally
20 positionable within a pivoted antenna table support frame in said movable support housing for multiple tri-directional planar positioning of said antenna within.

6. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 4 wherein said frame support housing is movable from a first position in spaced relation to said articles, to a second position encompassing said articles.

7. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 4 wherein said antenna is movably positioned from a first ascending position about the mass to a second descending position about the mass to a third descending position about the mass to the second ascending position about the mass.

8. The apparatus for identifying and counting multiple articles in a confined mass set forth in claim 4 wherein said means for selectively positioning said antenna around said massed articles further comprises, a first drive activation linkage assembly in communication with an antenna table support frame and said movable frame support housing, a secondary drive activation linkage assembly in communication between said antenna table support frame and said antenna support table.

9. A method for counting articles, comprising the steps of,
a. attaching individual sources of RF radiation to each article,
b. repeatedly scanning by passing an RF receiving antenna about said articles.
c. selectively repositioning said antenna in multiple planes for each scan pass,

d. detecting the independent sources of RF radiation by said repositionable RF antenna during each scan and determining the number of articles by repeated multiple scans of different RF antenna orientation.